

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. - 8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) A method for screening a chemical compound for activity in blocking the chloride channel CIC-7 ~~the treatment, prevention or alleviation of an osteoclast-related bone disease in a subject~~, which method comprises the following steps:

providing a test cell comprising one or more CIC-7 chloride channel[s] ~~CIC-7~~ expressed in osteoclasts and of the CIC family;

subjecting the test cell to the action of the ~~channel~~ chemical compound; and

measuring the ability of the chemical compound to block the ~~selected chloride channels~~ CIC7 chloride channel[s] ~~transport~~.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 9, wherein the screening method identifies compounds having potential activity in treating ~~an osteoclast-related bone disease, which is~~ osteoporosis, osteolytic cancer invasion, or Paget's disease of the bone.

12. - 17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently amended) A method for screening chemical compounds for potential activity in the treatment, ~~prevention~~ or alleviation of an osteoclast related bone disease in a subject, which method comprises

screening compounds in a test cell so as to select compounds having the ability to block ~~of the compounds to block~~ the chloride channel CIC-7 expressed in osteoclasts and of the CIC family.

19. - 20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method as claimed in claim 18, comprising screening the compounds so as to select compounds having the ability to block the chloride channel C1C-7 but not having the ability to block a chloride channel selected from the group consisting of chloride channels C1C-1, C1C-2, C1C-4, C1C-5, C1C-Ka and C1C-Kb.

22. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method as claimed in claim 18, comprising screening the compounds so as to select compounds having the ability to block specifically the chloride channel C1C-7.

23. - 26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the osteoclast related bone disease is osteoporosis, osteolytic cancer invasion, ~~osteopetrosis~~, or Paget's disease of bone.

28. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the screening method identifies compounds having potential activity in treating an osteoclast related bone disease.